

## A B S T R A C T

Sub  
B<sub>1</sub> 5

For remnants of a determined type, e.g. hides, at least one mask is established whose area is subdivided into various zones which correspond to different value levels of a characteristic of the material of the remnant, e.g. the color and the grain of the leather. A set of constraints is assigned to component pieces of a determined type of article, which set of constraints includes at least one value constraint for a characteristic of the material of the remnant, and links are defined between some of the component pieces, which links have different levels as a function in particular of relationships imposed between constraints assigned to the pieces. The digitized image of each remnant has applied to it the mask or each mask corresponding to the type of the remnant so as to subdivide the image of the remnant into various zones having uniform characteristics; and laying out is performed automatically by disposing the pieces in the zones of the image of the remnant as a function of any constraints assigned to the pieces, and in compliance with the links defined between the pieces.

30

Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2, 38.2, and/or 48.3.